

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 44, 47, 50 to 100, and 102 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Amendments to Claims 77 and 92

As an initial matter, the Examiner will note that claims 77 and 92 have been amended herein without prejudice to correct typographic errors. In this regard, claim 77 has been amended herein without prejudice to change “load lead” to --load leads--, and claim 92 has been amended herein without prejudice to change “arrange” to --arranged--.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 51 to 100 and 102.

IV. Rejection of Claim 44 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,632,469 (“Heun et al.”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,202,596 (“Jensen et al.”). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al. and Jensen et al. does not render unpatentable claim 44 for at least the following reasons.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of the rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 44 has been amended without prejudice to recite that “the central housing part includes dividing walls that form individual compartments for the drive components inside the housing, and that the compartment for the gear unit is sealed off from the compartment for the electric motor, the compartment for the electronic circuit and an outer environment of the compact drive by a shaft sealing ring situated on the rotor shaft of the electric motor and by shaft sealing rings situated on an output shaft of the gear unit.” Support for the amendments to claim 44 may be found, for

example, on page 8, lines 21 to 25 and page 4, line 32 to page 5, line 2 of the Specification, as well as in Figures 2 to 4.

Heun et al. does not disclose, or even suggest, that a compartment for a gear unit is sealed off from compartments for an electric motor and an electronic circuit and from an outer environment of a compact drive by a shaft sealing ring situated on a rotor shaft of the electric motor and by shaft sealing rings situated on an output shaft of the gear unit. As is apparent from column 4, lines 18 to 29 and Figures 1 and 2 of Heun et al., cooling air from fan (23) is able to flow past electric motor (2), gear unit (3), speed sensor equipment (8), frequency converter (14) and out of cooling air slots in protective housing (10). In addition, as is apparent from Figure 1, gear box (9) inherently has an opening through which chain (5a) of hoisting means (5) can move while being let out or taken in by chain wheel (4a). Thus, gear box (9) of Heun et al. is not sealed off from electric motor housing (2a), from the interior of protective housing (10) in which frequency converter (14) is situated, or from the outer environment of the electric chain hoist (1). Jensen et al., in turn, describes an electric motor (2) for a centrifugal pump (1) but does not cure the deficiencies of Heun et al. with respect to at least the above-mentioned feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al. and Jensen et al. does not render claim 44 unpatentable for at least these reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claims 47 and 50 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 47 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Heun et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,838,106 (“Adams”) and Jensen et al. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al., Adams and Jensen et al. does not render these claims unpatentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 47 includes features analogous to claim 44 and has been amended in a manner analogous to claim 44. As set forth above, the combination of Heun et al. and Jensen et al. does not disclose, or even suggest, at least the feature that a compartment for a gear unit is sealed off from compartments for an electric motor and an electronic circuit and from an outer environment of a compact drive by a shaft sealing ring situated on a rotor shaft of the electric motor and by shaft sealing

rings situated on an output shaft of the gear unit. In addition, Adams describes a rack and pinion steering gear assembly having a power assistance mechanism but does not cure the deficiencies of Heun et al. and Jensen et al. with respect to at least the above-mentioned feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al., Adams and Jensen et al. does not render unpatentable claim 47 and its dependent claim 50 for at least these reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending, claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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